GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1819
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
USE OF MALE CALVES THROUGH BULLOCK TRACTORS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for bulls further declined with tractorization and male calves are being sold off or starved off as appeared in `Business Standard` dated January 26, 2000;

(b) whether the Government proposals bring development cow and her progeny to alleviate poverty;

(c) if so, the reasons for destruction of valuable resource, and to withdraw subsidy on tractors; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote Bullock Tractors to save diesel etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a): Data on demand for bulls is not collected. Decrease in demand of bulls is consistent with increase in mechanized agriculture. The progress of mechanization in the country is not likely to decimate demand for bulls altogether.

(b): Both State and Central Governments are implementing a number of programmes to bring development of cow and her progeny. Providing livestock assets is one of the means recognized for alleviation of poverty.

(c): The practice of selling off or starving off male calves were prevalent even before tractorization in the country and the reasons for the same is linked to farmers perception on relative utility of animals and economic compulsions. There is no proposal under consideration for withdrawal of subsidy on tractor.

(d): Information on a newly designed bullock tractor have been circulated to all States/UTs for appropriate action.